

# Regional Planning Monitoring Report

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2019

New England  
North West





## Acknowledgement

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land and pays respect to all Elders past, present and future.

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Department of Planning,  
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Cover image:  
New England Highway near Armidale, NSW.

# Introduction



The NSW Government continues to focus on growing regional economies and communities, delivering catalyst projects to achieve these outcomes.

## The Regional Plans

The Regional Plans were developed to guide planning for the existing and future community's needs for housing, jobs, infrastructure and a healthy environment. These plans set a clear vision and direction for how each region can leverage future opportunities to ensure their communities remain vibrant and dynamic.

The Regional Plans provide an overarching framework, to coordinating a whole of government approach to land use planning decisions and priorities across the State. To achieve their vision, the Regional Plans are structured around a number of goals, directions and actions. The actions in the Regional Plans are identified as either immediate actions (0-2 years), short term (3-5 years), medium term (5-10 years) or long term and are implemented as strategies or as initiatives. The NSW Government has identified a lead agency and relevant partners and priority for each action.

The lead agency is responsible for project managing the various tasks required to ensure the success of each action.

## Governance

Delivery, Coordination and Monitoring Committees, including the Hunter & Central Coast Development Corporation, have been established to oversee and coordinate the implementation of the Regional Plan and bring together agencies and organisations responsible for delivering the majority of the outcomes. The Delivery, Coordination and Monitoring Committees meet regularly, drive delivery of the plan and identify priorities for implementation.

The Delivery, Coordination and Monitoring Committees are operations focused and membership includes delegates from local government, the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Department of Premier and Cabinet, NSW Health, Department of Education and Transport for NSW. The Committees are also supported by outcome specific groups that bring together appropriate representatives from government, industry and community to provide advice on particular issues or projects.

## Purpose

The *Regional Planning Monitoring Report 2019* details the work undertaken by the NSW Government, local councils and other stakeholders to implement the Regional Plans. The report outlines the key achievements around delivering on the goals, directions and actions of each Regional Plan with a particular focus on the priorities that have been agreed with the Delivery, Coordination and Monitoring Committees in each region. The report outlines the work plan that will be progressed over the next 12 months to deliver the goals of each region across the State.

# Highlights



## Regional Intensive Agribusiness Data and Gap Analysis Report

A *Regional Intensive Agribusiness Data and Gap Analysis* for the region has been completed, which included targeted consultation with key stakeholders. The data and gap analysis will be used to inform and assist further planning work aimed at fostering and growing intensive agribusiness in the region.



## Regional City Activation Plans

*Regional City Activation Plans* have been completed for Tamworth and Armidale. Enquiry by Design workshops were undertaken, in collaboration with councils and stakeholders to deliver the Activation Plans. The Activation Plans provide a city vision and identify design led opportunities to support their role and function as vibrant focal points of community activity.



## Regional Economic Development Strategies (REDS)

The Department of Premier and Cabinet undertook stakeholder interviews and workshops as part of completing REDS for the Lower North West, Upper North West, Southern New England High Country and the Northern New England High Country. The strategies will guide economic development and will enable faster access to dedicated State funding and grant applications.



## Inland Rail Project

The NSW Government is working with the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development to progress the Parkes to Narromine section of the Inland Rail Project. Moree Plains Shire Council and Narrabri Shire Council are undertaking studies to identify how to maximise the Inland Rail Project and enhance economic opportunities for their Shires.



## Housing and Land Monitor

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment has worked with councils to deliver the *New England North West Housing and Land Monitor 2018*. The monitor provides an annual review of housing and employment land activity in the region.



## Minimising Natural Hazard Risks

Natural hazard risks are being minimised by directing development away from inappropriate locations such as in the case of the Narrabri Shire planning proposal from the Kaputar Road area. The planning proposal was completed in 2018 and expanded an existing rural residential area whilst avoiding identified bushfire and flood prone lands.



## Urban Design Guide for Regional NSW

A draft *Urban Design Guide for Regional NSW* has been released for consultation following initial



consultation with regional councils. The Guide provides best practice guidelines for planning, designing and developing healthy built environments.



## Aboriginal Heritage Landscape Mapping

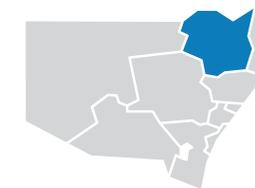
Aboriginal Heritage Landscape Mapping has been completed for new urban release areas across the New England North West region. The mapping will help inform better planning for these areas to ensure Aboriginal heritage is protected and conserved.



## High Environmental Value Areas

High environmental value areas are being protected by directing development away from sensitive areas, such as in the case of the Tamworth Regional Council planning proposal for the Oaklands Estate. This planning proposal seeks to amend the Local Environmental Plan to better protect a critically endangered ecological community of White Box, Yellow Box and Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland.

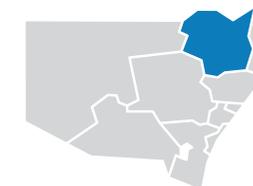
# Priority Actions 2017-19



Update on the Priority Actions	Establishment	Preparation	Consultation	Review	Finalised	Expected Finalisation
Foster ongoing investment, specify guidelines for intensive agriculture and food processing and mapping of suitable future precincts for these uses.	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	MAR 2020
Map important agricultural land and develop guidelines to support the implementation of the important agricultural land mapping through local plans.	✓	✓	-	-	-	DEC 2020
Prepare a regional economic development strategy that promotes opportunities for the diversification of the economic base by identifying key enabling infrastructure and other policy interventions to unlock growth.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>Completed</b>
Monitor the supply of residential and employment land through the <i>New England North West Housing and Land Monitor</i> .	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>Completed</b>
Prepare activation plans for the regional cities.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>Completed</b>
Deliver best practice guidelines for planning, designing and developing healthy built environments.	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	MAR 2020
Prepare guidelines for local housing strategies that will provide guidance on achieving greater housing diversity and planning for local affordable housing needs.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>Completed</b>
Prepare maps to identify sites of Aboriginal heritage in new land release areas, where culturally appropriate, to inform planning strategies and local plans to protect Aboriginal heritage.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>Completed</b>

# Our work plan 2019-20

to implement the New England North West Regional Plan



## Action 1.1

Finalise planning work to foster and grow intensive agribusiness in the region

(DPIE)

## Action 3.1

Map Important Agricultural Land

(DPIE)

## Action 6.2

Implement the Regional Economic Development Strategies

(DPIE)

## Action 7.7

Release the Housing and Land Monitor

(DPIE)

## Action 23.2

Develop maps of Aboriginal heritage in new land release areas

(EES)

## Action 19.1

Finalise the Urban Design Guide for Regional NSW

(DPIE)

## Action 22.3

Continue to undertake strategic assessments of Local Aboriginal Land Council landholdings

(DPIE)

(DPIE) Responsible agency

**DPIE** – Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, **EES** – Environment, Energy and Science Group